

Clinical Schools Network News

Spring 2008

Walter and Daisy Carson Latham Clinical Schools Network

Latham Clinical Schools Network • College of Education • East Carolina University • 110 Speight Building • Greenville, NC 27858-4353

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Weldon City
Ms. Tracy Gary

Wilson County
Ms. Susan Morgan

From the Director's Desk

Teacher Education Responds to the UNC Tomorrow Report

By Dr. Vivian Martin Covington, Director, Office of Teacher Education

East Carolina University is busy working on its campus response to the UNC Tomorrow Report published by the General Administration of The University of North Carolina. The executive summary and full report may be found at www.nctomorrow.org/. The College of Education will be a major force in ECU's response to each item, specifically sections 4.1 Our Global Readiness; 4.2 Our Citizens and Their Future: Access to Higher Education; 4.3 Our Children and Their Future: Improving Public Education, and 4.7 Our University's Outreach and Engagement.

It is because of the long-standing, successful partnerships we have with our public school partners and the North Carolina Community College System that we are able to respond in meaningful ways to the key focus areas of the report. Our Global Readiness is a driving factor in the re-visioning of our undergraduate programs. We must ensure that our graduates have 21st century skills and that they can teach them to their students. By being a leader in the state in distance education offerings and degrees, we are able to provide increased access to higher education to our service region. Also, the Latham Clinical Schools Network and Wachovia Partnership East combine to provide accessible and affordable teacher education degrees for our public schools in eastern North Carolina. Through programs like Project HEART and the work of the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach, we are able to provide tutoring services, early college awareness, and professional development for students and educators in the region.

ECU has a long history of service, accessibility, and outreach to the region. What will this look like in the next century? With growing needs in the region and with ECU's growth as a campus, how will we forge ahead together to have continued success? What are the programs we should continue promoting, what should we do less of, what should we do differently, and what new innovations will move us forward as a leader in the future? These are key questions that must be answered as we define ourselves in the context of a new century. It goes without saying, you, our partners, will be a vital part of where we are going.

News from the ECU Campus

Doctors Corbin and Covington Receive Best Research Paper Award

By Jessica Davenport, COE, Director of Communications

Dr. Mary Beth Corbin, former Director of ECU's NC Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars Program in the College of Education now serving as Director of Academic Services in the Office of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Vivian Martin Covington, Director of Teacher Education in the College of Education, were selected as co-recipients of the 2007 Howard A. Dawson Best Research Paper Award. The award was presented at the National Rural Education Association (NREA) Research Symposium Luncheon held during the NREA Centennial Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on November 10, 2007. Drs. Corbin and Covington presented, "Factors Influencing Rural High School Students' Decisions to Teach," at the convention.

The Howard A. Dawson Best Research Paper Award is sponsored by the Howard A. Dawson Foundation at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The award was presented by Patricia Hardré, Chair, NREA Research Committee. Drs. Corbin and Covington, shared the \$500 honorarium and complimentary registration to attend the NREA Centennial Convention.



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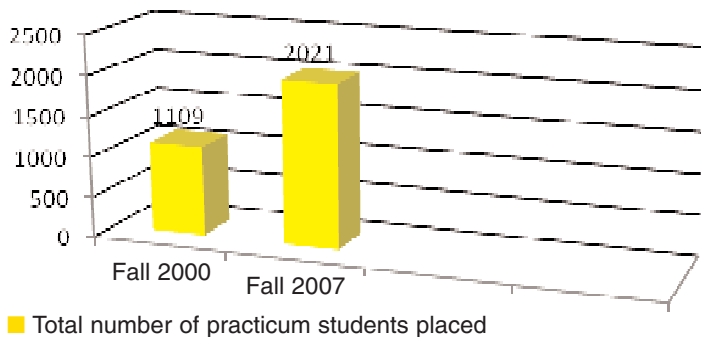
News from the Office of Clinical Experiences

Dramatic Increase in Practicum and Internship Placements

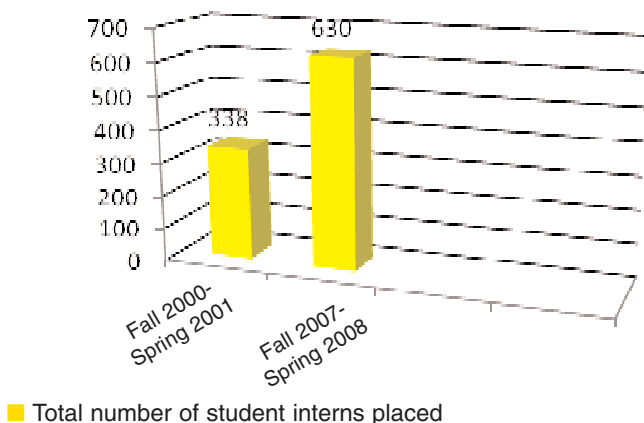
The major role of the Office of Clinical Experiences is to identify and secure quality practicum and internship placements by interacting with the education faculty at ECU and the public school systems in the Latham Clinical Schools Network and outside the network.

In recent years the Office of Clinical Experiences has been aware of an increase in the number of practicum and internship placements. A comparison from the fall 2000 semester to fall 2007 provides evidence of how dramatic the increase is.

Comparison of Practicum Placements



Comparison of Internship Placements



As the chart indicates, OCE placed 1,109 practicum students in fall 2000 and 2,021 practicum students in fall 2007. The number of **practicum students** placed from fall 2000 to fall 2007 **increased by 45%**. OCE placed 338 interns during the 2000-2001 academic year and 630 interns during the 2007-2008 academic year. The number of **student interns** placed from the 2000-2001 to the 2007-2008 academic year **increased by 46%**. Courses in teacher education provide prospective teachers with a variety of ideas and opportunities to learn about teaching. However, it is the practicum and internship experiences that allow the education students to apply, test, and refine those ideas into practice.

Even though ECU is the largest producer of education professionals in the UNC system, we must accept the challenge

News from the ECU Campus

Tar River Writing Project

Teachers throughout eastern North Carolina are invited to apply to the 2008 Invitational Summer Institute of the Tar River Writing Project (TRWP). The TRWP Summer Invitational Institute is open to all teachers, kindergarten-college, across all disciplines. This project is part of a network of sites located in universities around the United States. Each site conducts a summer institute and sponsors professional development and inservice workshops during the school year. After the summer is over, the participants stay active with the project by returning to their classrooms and engaging in their own teacher research, investigating problems they've observed as seasoned teachers and considering possible solutions, and by conducting professional development workshops for teachers in their area.

Recent independent research has found that, on average, 98 percent of participating teachers believe that National Writing Project (NWP) Summer Institutes are the best professional development experiences they've had. Likewise, an independent national scoring of student writing has shown that student improvement in NWP teachers' classrooms outpaced those of students in carefully constructed comparison programs.

Benefits for teachers include 6 graduate course credit hours applicable to degree and non-degree programs, 9 continuing education units, and a scholarship from the National Writing Project that covers all tuition costs. Do students write in your classes? Do you care about student writing and improving as a writing teacher? Do you want to develop even better writing assignments? Then YOU should apply to the TRWP Summer Invitational Institute. For more information and to apply, visit the TRWP website: <http://www.trwp.org>. The TRWP Summer Invitational Institute will be held June 26 – July 24, 2008.

Educational Opportunity for Students

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP

The East Carolina University Summer Science Camp is now accepting registration for students in grades 2nd – 8th. Camp sessions will be held during the months of June and July. Please share this information with anyone you feel would be interested in attending. There are several new camp sessions being offered this summer. Information regarding the camp and registration forms can be found on this website: <http://www.ecu.edu/educ/msed/summersciencecamp/>

from UNC Tomorrow to increase our numbers. As OCE works to identify and secure placements for the increase in practicum students and student interns, our relationship with our public school partners becomes more and more important. OCE will strive to maintain communication and support for all of our partners as we work together to prepare future teachers for our schools.

News from the ECU Campus

ECU College of Education's RIGOR program: Bringing Rural Gifted Students to Campus

By Elizabeth Howland, Graduate Assistant for the Gifted Education Program

The ECU College of Education RIGOR program seeks to enrich the academic and social lives of gifted students from Jones County, a rural county in the Latham Clinical Schools Network. Through a series of seminars designed to stimulate interests in a variety of fields, the RIGOR program hopes to challenge these students and give them an opportunity to explore college life. The RIGOR program was funded by a grant provided by the Rural Education Institute (REI) through the ECU College of Education.

This year's RIGOR program offered students two class choices. One was a drama seminar and the other was biology. Each seminar was divided into two parts, one held on February 15th and the other, February 25th.

The drama seminar called ONSTAGE! was led by Dr. Patricia (Patch) Clark and Mr. Rick Southerland. The first part of the drama seminar worked with students on theater techniques and movement using the play *Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread*. For their take-home piece, students adapted the classic play *Medea* into a more modernized version incorporating dance and movement.

The biology seminar called Avian Detectives was taught by Dr. Susan McRae. The first day of the class focused on the hands-on extraction of chicken DNA from a chicken breast. During the second part of the seminar, students used DNA information from one of Dr. McRae's studies to determine the mother and father of a mock mystery bird egg.

Both opportunities gave students something to take home. ONSTAGE! provided students with bound copies of *Medea* and a journal to write down ideas for their own piece. Avian Detectives gave students a DNA textbook. Additionally, each student was given a Student Participation certificate and an ECU backpack.

ECU College of Education's RIGOR program has several goals. First, high-ability students, particularly in rural areas, often are taught the same material as their normal-ability peers. For this reason, gifted students are often not challenged and the RIGOR program seeks to provide for them a challenging experience. Second, studies show high-ability students should spend at least part of their day together. This program allows gifted students to work with one another and develop friendships with intellectual peers. Finally, the program hopes to encourage these gifted students to go to college after high school graduation. To that end, students were taken on a campus tour on the 15th and met with the Associate Director of Admissions, Chalisa Harrell, on the 25th. The tour was given by an ECU

Ambassador while Ms. Harrell discussed admission guidelines and offered advice about how to get into college.

The ECU College of Education RIGOR program was designed by Dr. Melissa Matusevich, Dr. Katherine O'Connor, and Dr. Elizabeth Fogarty. These three professors wrote the grant which provided funding for the program, and they implemented RIGOR as a high school outreach program for gifted education in eastern North Carolina. For more information about this and other programs that they are working on at ECU, please see <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/ci/AIG-Add-On-Licensure.cfm>.



News from the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach

Two major student outreach events are scheduled for the month of April. On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, we will host a 7th Grade AVID DAY. This day is designed specifically for seventh grade students to give them an opportunity to tour the East Carolina University campus, to learn about the various career choices, and to sharpen their focus on preparing for college. This event is a follow-up to our fall AVID Day. On Wednesday, April 23, 2008, we will host our "So, You Want To Be A Teacher" Day. As part of our continued teacher recruitment efforts, this day is designed for high school students who have shown an interest in becoming a teacher. Students will learn more about scholarship opportunities, such as Teaching Fellows and the Maynard Scholars, and potential licensure areas based on their teaching interests. Current teacher education students will be available to meet with prospective students and share about college life.

The Sixth Annual Clinical Teacher Conference was held April 1, 2008 at the Greenville Hilton. More than 300 clinical teachers from across eastern North Carolina and many ECU faculty members were in attendance. Mr. James Bell, 2007 NC Teacher of the Year, gave the keynote address which was followed by 24 break-out sessions related to specific program areas and the essential work of coaching interns.

Several workshops for current East Carolina University teacher education students were held throughout the spring 2008 semester. All Senior year interns were invited to attend. The workshops included:

- Managing the Learning Environment, presented by Dr. Amy Good, February 27, 2008 from 3 – 5 pm in Mendenhall Room 244.
- Diversity and Controversial Issues, presented by Dr. Jillian Ardley, Dr. Rhea Miles, Ms. Tomegia Winston, Dr. David Siegel and Dr. Vivian Martin Covington, March 5, 2008 from 3 – 5 pm in Mendenhall Room 244
- Student Motivation, presented by Yvonne Perry & Susan Silver, NC Department of Public Instruction, April 15, 2008, from 2 – 5 pm in Mendenhall Room 244.

Advanced Placement Training for Teachers

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUMMER INSTITUTE

East Carolina University will host an AP Summer Institute with sessions offered in US History, English Literature and Composition, Statistics (Beginning), and AB Calculus. Sessions will be offered at varying times from June 23-July 2, 2008. For more information and to register visit the website: http://www.cofed.ecu.edu/cs/mte/AP_Institute/index.htm

News from the ECU Campus

Wachovia Partnership East Update

Dr. Linda James Wooldard joined the College of Education in January 2008 as the new Wachovia Partnership East Virtual Consortium Coordinator. Dr. Wooldard has extensive experience in both K-12 education and higher education. Among her many professional roles, she has been a public school teacher and a member of the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Science Education at East Carolina University. In addition, she most recently served as the Elementary Math and Science Section Chief at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Please help us welcome Dr. Wooldard to her new role.

At the WPE South Central Consortium, the WPE students in Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society for education majors, held a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Andy's Restaurant in Goldsboro during the month of January to raise money to purchase home libraries for public school students in the South Central Consortium area. The Kappa Delta Pi students strive to serve others through various community projects.

As of the end of January 2008, we have over 220 students enrolled in Wachovia Partnership East cohorts. Of these students, approximately 60% are employed in the local schools as paraprofessionals. It is also exciting to know that we now have over 120 graduates that participated in this partnership. According to the data, a high percentage of WPE graduates are returning to their home communities to teach. This partnership is a collaborative effort that is providing educational opportunities close to home and creating a pool of local highly qualified teachers for our public school partners.

In looking to the future, we are planning to enroll seven new cohorts in Fall 2008: four site based Elementary Education cohorts, one Virtual Elementary Education cohort, one Virtual Special Education-General Curriculum cohort, and one Virtual Middle Grades Education cohort with concentrations in Language Arts and Science. In Fall 2009, we hope to start another seven new cohorts with one change; the Middle Grades cohort will choose two of three concentrations from Language Arts, Math, and Science. If you know anyone interested in this degree-completion partnership, please encourage them to visit our website at www.ecu.edu/wpe.

News from the Network

Duplin County Schools

DUPLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS is committed to "Growing our Own Teachers". This year we are focusing on two concepts:

- Implementing the Teacher Cadet Program in all four of our high schools, and
- Exploring options with our partnership institutions of higher education to provide options for Teacher Assistants to continue their education and earn a degree.

In an attempt to move forward with the Teacher Assistant component, a meeting was held on Friday, February 15, 2008 in the Monk Auditorium at James Sprunt Community College. The purpose of the meeting was to present information to Teacher Assistants regarding programs available to continue their education and complete a degree. Presenters included representatives from James Sprunt Community College, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and East Carolina University. A representative from the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium also provided information about services and financial assistance available through the Consortium.

Edenton-Chowan County Schools

Edenton-Chowan gets \$150K for Dropout Prevention

By Earline White, Managing Editor, *The Chowan Herald*
Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Edenton - Chowan Schools was one of 60 districts out of 300-plus applicants that will share \$7 million aimed at at-risk students.

In 2007, state lawmakers appropriated the grant funding to reduce the number of dropouts in North Carolina.

Edenton - Chowan Schools will receive \$150,000 to hire a full-time life coach coordinator and three part-time life coaches.

The coaches will work with 60 at-risk students — 15 from Chowan Middle School and 45 from John A. Holmes High School — and their families.

"We are pleased that we will receive yet another opportunity to improve and extend services to students who may be at risk of dropping out," Superintendent Allan Smith said. "One dropout is one too many."

"This [dropouts] is a significant problem that we must address," Representative Tim Spear said. "With this dropout prevention program, we will find the best way to keep our kids in school."

Edenton-Chowan's dropout rate has been lower than the state average for two years. The state's dropout rate has consistently hovered at five percent while locally in 2005-2006 the rate was 3.5 percent and in 2006-2007 4.6 percent.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Boyce who presented the application to the school board earlier this month said the life coaches Edenton-Chowan plans to hire will follow students in and out of school, provide necessary transportation and make sure students take advantage of opportunities available to them.

According to Edenton-Chowan's proposal, the life coach's role will be determined by student needs. Coaches could conduct home visits, work with school administrators to organize programs or help students develop their plans for the future.

"Simply put, the Life Coach is there to make sure the student has someone in their lives who makes education a main focus," Boyce said. Students will be in the program for an average of two years, Boyce added.

Edenton-Chowan's life coaching program will follow the Check and Connect model developed in Minnesota to encourage school participation.

The grants range in size from \$25,000 to \$150,000 and were awarded to school systems, schools, agencies and nonprofits.

News from the Network, *continued*

Greene County Schools

My name is Kimberly Rispress. For the first half of the semester, I was in Mrs. Karla Jennings's classroom at Greene County Middle School as her intern. The first class I started teaching was the sixth grade honors math class. Their first project with me dealt with scale drawings.



Students were given a small cartoon picture with a transparent grid stapled on top. They had to draw a larger version of this picture accurately using 1-inch grid poster paper. When they heard this, they all panicked. None of them were artists, yet I expected them to draw a great picture. They all chose their favorite picture out of the selection, set up their poster paper to match the picture, and started copying the picture grid-by-grid. After they finished their pictures on the second day, they realized that they had created art. The pictures were larger versions of the original!

Kimberly Rispress
Greene County Middle School Intern

Field Trips were always a favorite activity of mine throughout the school year. I can remember going to see the State Capital, the trips we took to the museums downtown, and plays at the memorial auditorium. Now being on the other side of the classroom I am learning how to plan a field trip. Ms. Miller and I decided that it would be a great experience to plan a field trip of my own. I think often times people do not realize the time and paperwork that goes into this process. I have been working with Imagination Station in Wilson. They have been great to work with throughout the process. I know that this experience will help me next year when I begin to plan trips for my own class. I have learned about the prior notice that the schools must have and the price range that parents like to stay between. I recommend anyone who is given the opportunity to plan a field trip to do it. It is a wonderful experience and in early March when we go I will be able to see the joy on these students' faces and know that I had something to do with the smiles.

Brittany Austin- Clinical Intern
Michelle Miller- Clinical Teacher

Nash-Rocky Mount Schools

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools proudly announces Sheldon Van Bulluck, math teacher at D.S. Johnson Elementary School, as the 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made at the annual Teacher of the Year reception held at Rose Hill Conference Center.

As Teacher of the Year, Mr. Bulluck was presented keys to a brand new 2008 Honda Accord to use during the year he serves as TOY from area automobile dealers Davenport Auto Park, Premier Ford Lincoln Mercury, Alliance Mazda-Kia, Bobby Murray Toyota, Farris Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge and Medlin Motors. He also received a \$500 gas card from Eastern Petroleum/EP Mart and a \$500 check from Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. Mr. Bulluck's name will also be up in lights on area billboards thanks to local business sponsors Lamar Outdoor Advertising and Hubert D. Pope Funeral Home.

Mr. Bulluck is a graduate of N.C. Central University with a Bachelors Degree in Historical Research. He is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in School Administration at the University of Phoenix, a Masters of Divinity Degree at Regent University and AIG certification at East Carolina University.

Mr. Bulluck, along with finalists Malissa Lyons, 6th grade science teacher at George R. Edwards Middle School and Loretta Valenski, science teacher at Southern Nash High School, received laptop computers from Hospira and the Wachovia Ben Craig Award along with a hand-carved crystal apple and \$1,000 to be used in their classrooms.

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools began 2008 by celebrating 12 educators who achieved the prestigious status of National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) bringing the total NRMPs National Board Certified staff to 125 (98 currently employed by NRMPs). NBCT's were honored with a reception and presented a personalized door name plate indicating their achievement of national board status and the year certification was awarded. The names (Janet Battle, Shannon Dickinson, Christina Ford, Betsy Hester, Michelle Jackson, Linda Mosley, Paula Moore, Mary Nynan, Charlene Outland, Kristin Register, Meredith Stokley, Susan Strickland) of the Class of 2007 were also added to the permanent NBCT Plaque located at the entrance of the Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Administrative Offices.

Onslow County Schools

Lori Deans Howard, principal at Clyde Erwin Elementary School, has been selected as the 2008 Wachovia Principal of the Year for the Onslow County Schools. The Principal of the Year program is co-sponsored by Wachovia Bank and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Mrs. Howard now moves on to compete with other local recipients from the Southeast Region of the state. From among these six, one principal will be selected as the 2008 Wachovia Principal of the Year for North Carolina.

Mrs. Howard is a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina and graduated from N.E.W. Christian Academy in Sharpsburg, NC. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Masters in School Administration, and Educational Specialist-Advanced Degree, all from East Carolina University. In 1987, she began her teaching career as an 8th & 9th grade teacher at Nash Central Junior High in Nash County. After serving two years as Director of the Sylvan Learning Center in Rocky Mount, N.C., she moved to Jacksonville, NC in 1991 to teach 5th grade at Northwoods Elementary School. She later served as the assistant principal at Southwest Middle School from 1994 through 1999 and at Clyde Erwin Elementary School from 1999 to 2001. She was named principal at Swansboro Middle School in 2001, where she served for two years. In July 2003, she returned to Clyde Erwin Elementary School as principal.

Under her leadership at Clyde Erwin Elementary School, Mrs. Howard is constantly seeking opportunities to effectively utilize current and new programs and facilities in order to promote student achievement. Upon returning to Clyde Erwin Elementary as principal, she initiated a summer readiness program for incoming kindergarten students, which later expanded to become the *Summer Academy and Enrichment Program*. Students are invited to attend in either the Academy Program, which provides hands-on activities to help them in bridging the gaps and preparing them for the following grade or

News from the Network, *continued*

the Enrichment Program, where students attend classes in physical education, visual art, storytelling, geography, media and technology, and robotics. During the summer of 2007, over 180 children attended the summer program.

In addition, Mrs. Howard implemented a before-school program to improve the quality of student education, which is voluntary for Clyde Erwin students. Referred to as "Homework Haven," dedicated teachers greet and assist over 100 students each morning in the development of reading, writing, math, technology and critical thinking skills.

In efforts to bring all students into the 21st century through technology and globalization, Mrs. Howard is bringing the globe to her students. Through *World View and North Carolina in the World*, students at Clyde Erwin Elementary will connect and experience a partnership with their peers in Pueblo, Mexico through the use of pod-casting and video-conferencing.

Pamlico County Schools

Mr. Mark Romano, Senior II, is completing his student internship at Pamlico County High School in Bayboro, North Carolina. He has taken over two biology classes and will soon be teaching marine science as well. Mr. Romano has learned the students' names, likes and dislikes, and learning styles very quickly. He has used a variety of activities to teach microscopes, cell organelle structure/ function, osmosis, diffusion, and mitosis. Mark is very excited to move into the next unit, Genetics. We look forward to his continued growth as an educator and to his contributions to the students of Pamlico County.



Christine Wayne

Clinical Teacher, Pamlico County High School

Wonderful things are happening in Pamlico County. I am a third grade teacher at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School. I am really excited to have my first intern. Her name is MaryEllen Stalnaker. She has visited with my class several times and is eager to begin teaching her first lesson. My students look forward to her visit each week. She is very quick to jump right in and help students who are having difficulties. She has a nurturing personality. MaryEllen is dedicated to the teaching profession. She is currently a teacher assistant at Arapahoe Charter

School. I'm looking forward to her sharing new ideas with me that will engage my students in new learning experiences. I am truly blessed to have MaryEllen as my intern this year!

Valerie Bennett

Clinical Teacher, Fred A. Anderson Elementary School

Pitt County Schools

The teacher quality movement in Pitt County Schools has taken a major step forward following the announcement by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS®) that twenty-six teachers have achieved National Board Certification in 2007. PCS is among the top 11 school systems in North Carolina that had the greatest number of teachers achieving National Board Certification this year. Additionally, PCS ranks eighth overall in the state with a total number of 224 teachers that have achieved this honor.

The following teachers in Pitt County Schools achieved their certification this year: Jennifer Gribble, Ayden Elementary; Susan Little, Ayden Middle; Elizabeth Myers, Ayden Middle; Pamela Williamson, C.M. Eppes; Jennifer Attardi, Chicod; Martha Bryant, Chicod; Suzanne Hardee, Chicod; Crystal Malpass, Chicod; Meghann Boyd, Creekside; Ernest Hoke, E.B. Aycock; Krista Bunting, Eastern; Lavena Taylor, Falkland; Elizabeth Smith, Farmville Central; Tracie Below, Hope Middle; Sheri Vanhook, Hope Middle; Brian Callahan, J.H. Rose; Leigh Ann Scher, Northwest; Sue Anne Blank, Sam D. Bundy; Jessica Knox, Sam D. Bundy; Sarah Edwards, South Central; Karen Singer, South Central; Pamela Brown, Stokes; Trudy Garris, Stokes; Jennifer Anderson, W.H. Robinson; Jennifer Bullard, Wahl-Coates; and Teresa Stainback, Wintergreen Primary.

Elizabeth Strathern, teacher at Third Street School, received the 2007 Teacher of Excellence Award at the 57th annual Conference on Exceptional Children held in Greensboro on November 12, 2007. The award is given by the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The Teacher of Excellence Award is given in honor of teachers and related service providers who have made significant contributions to the education of children with disabilities and children identified as academically and/or intellectually gifted. All persons being honored were nominated by their individual school system, charter school or agency because of their innovative instructional programs and commitment to meeting the needs of all children.

Strathern has been providing direct service in support of children, families and the community for twenty-five years. She has proven to be an innovator in the area of Special Education since coming to Pitt County Schools in 2000, where she began her employment at the Third Street School working in the area of Pre-School autism. She continues her employment in the same school today. She has also been nominated for Teacher of the Year at the Third Street School two times, in 2004 and 2005.

Jeff Theus, principal at Wellcome Middle School, has been appointed the principal at the new Early College High School. Theus holds both a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise and Sport Science and a Master's Degree in School Administration from East Carolina University.

Before transitioning to public education, Theus worked with autistic adult males for two years as a Group Home Worker and for one year as a Substance Abuse Counselor for the NC Department of Correction. In 1996, Theus began his teaching career at Martin

Alumni Spotlight

Russell H. Johnson was appointed as Principal of Stocks Elementary School in Edgecombe County in August 2006. Mr. Johnson is completing his 30th year of service to the North Carolina Public Schools. He earned three degrees from East Carolina University.

Dennis Teel, Principal at Falkland Elementary School in Pitt County, was recognized as the Administrator of the Year by the North Carolina School Library Media Association in November 2007. Mr. Teel was also named Wachovia Principal of the Year for Pitt County in 2006 and went on to be a finalist for this award in the Southeast Region.

News from the Network, *continued*

County Schools as a Communications and Science teacher at Robersonville Middle School. He joined Pitt County Schools as a teacher at North Pitt High School in 1997. He spent the next five years teaching English and World Geography at the school. In 2002, Theus joined the NC Principal Fellow Program at East Carolina University and worked at Farmville Central High School as an administrative intern. Upon completing the program in 2004, Theus joined the staff at South Central High School as the assistant principal. In 2006, he was named the principal at Wellcome Middle School.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Pitt County Schools' effort to expand opportunities through the Early College initiative," commented Theus. "The partnership between Pitt County Schools, Pitt Community College and East Carolina University will allow students to get two years of transferable college credit or an associate's degree while gaining knowledge about careers in education."

Wayne County Schools

STUDENTS INTERNS

The Wayne County Public School System welcomes twelve Senior I Interns for the spring semester. They are Melissa Cochran and Cindy Pendergraph at Rosewood Elementary, Jeffrey Winbush at Eastern Wayne High, Laura Smith at Mount Olive Middle School, Jillian Hardison at Grantham School, Courtney Howell at Carver Heights Elementary, Crystal Williams at Carver Elementary, Sara Rouse at Greenwood, Elizabeth Gustafson and Lashonda Best at Northeast Elementary, Pamela Kneeshaw at Meadow Lane Elementary, and Amanda Lee at Eastern Wayne Elementary.

Three of our Senior I interns Sara Rouse, Pamela Kneeshaw and Amanda Lee, are employed as Teacher Assistants in Wayne County and are participants in the Wachovia Partnership East (WPE) consortium.

To our twenty-five returning Senior II interns, we hope you are having a successful experience as you along with your clinical teachers continue to provide a stimulating learning environment for the students in our school system.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wayne County takes pride in recognizing our fourteen new National Board Certified Teachers. Recognition and Congratulations will be extended to the following NBCT's at our next Board Meeting, Monique Wilson-Thomas, Kelli Edwards, Kimberly Herring, Shelly Pinkowski, Kim Weaver, Tricia Sullivan, Tyshun Bryant, Robin Re, Susanne Kemp, Jennifer Lancaster, Holly Lutze, Lori Smith, Kimberly Chamblee, and Vivian Echols. At the present time we have a total of 158 NBCT's working in our system. We also congratulate the thirty candidates who are pursuing nation board certification this school year.

WCPS supports National Board participants through monthly support meetings facilitated by NBCT's, system wide NBC facilitators, press releases, recognition and certificate from the board of education and a one-time \$500 bonus.

Congratulations are extended to Brian Heim, a senior at Spring Creek High School who is one of 104 nationwide students selected to participate in the 46th annual United States Youth Program. Brian is one of two North Carolina students to participate in this program. On March 1st, Mr. Heim will join the other participants in

Washington, D.C. for a week long government and leadership education program. He will also receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

TEACHING FELLOWS

Wayne County is proud to announce that we have fifty-one high school seniors who have applied and interviewed for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. Representative from all seven of our high schools were among the applicants.

Again this year WCPS will participate in the Teaching Fellows Discovery bus tour in March. Sophomores from across the state (Teaching Fellows) will visit various school systems during this time. Wayne County will also be hosting several Teachings Fellows during their Senior Week Orientation experience. We are looking forward to hosting these two events.

Wilson County Schools

Wilson County Schools (WCS) began a new school year with excitement. James Bell, North Carolina's 2007 Teacher of the Year, presented "Tricks of the Trade" for new teachers. Not only was his presentation informative, but very energizing!

Joyce Best exemplifies outstanding teaching and was chosen as WCS' Teacher of the Year. Ms. Best, a current high school science teacher and former nurse, began her teaching career as a lateral entry teacher ten years ago. She states that she was a teacher as a nurse and decided to pursue her life long dream of becoming an educator in the public school spectrum. She does attribute her success as a teacher to her former career, and to her strong passion for helping students learn. Ms. Best is enjoying a new car provided by Lee Motor Company for one year and monetary compensations from the school system and Wilson Education Partnership (WEP). This organization is a nonprofit local education fund that works with WCS, businesses, and the community to promote excellence in public education. WEP is a major asset to the Wilson community and sponsors many events for Wilson County Schools and students throughout the year.

WCS also is in the first year of implementing academies in the three high schools. The academies offered this school year are Engineering and Industrial Technology, Health Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. For the 2008-09 school year WCS will host a total of 8 academies. Students can apply to an academy based on an area of interest and while enrolled, will develop knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.

The school system continues to partner with Wachovia Partnership East (WPE) to help teacher assistants obtain a degree in teaching. Currently there are 6 teacher assistants in their senior year working diligently towards a degree in education by December 2008. What a great opportunity to "grow your own"! Wilson Schools also values its partnership with the Latham Clinical Schools Network. Currently there are 135 trained clinical teachers in the system willing to work with interns.

Employing 73 NBCT is something to boast about! Also, approximately 27 teachers are in their first year of pursuing their NBC, with around 15 who are in year 2 or 3. These teachers are dedicated to their profession and go beyond the minimum standards to promote teaching as a profession. In fact, "Pursuing Excellence" is what drives the employees of WCS.



We Want to Hear from You

Alumni, we want to be informed of professional accomplishments you have made since graduation. If you have received a professional award or honor, a promotion, or a new job, contributed to your community in a significant way, or if you have experienced a personal triumph, please drop us a line at the College of Education so we can share that news with fellow alumni and the readership of **Clinical Schools Network News**. Simply complete the form and return it to the address below, or e-mail your information to **williamsonki@ecu.edu**.

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